

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 SP-02 AID-05

NSC-05 RSC-01 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-02 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5875

INFO US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 0378

US MISSION GENEVA 1294

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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US MISSION OECD PARIS 1241

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, IN

SUBJECT: INDO-EC JOINT COMMISSION MEETS

1. SECOND SESSION OF THE INDO-EC JOINT COMMISSION WAS HELD IN NEW DELHI DECEMBER 17 AND 18. COMMERCE SECRETARY Y.T. SHAH LED THE INDIAN DELEGATION AND DR. MANFRED CASPARI OF EC COMMISSION EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIRECTORATE HEADED EC GROUP.

2. ACCORDING TO AN OBSERVER ON THE EC DELEGATION (CHRISTOPHER ROBERTS OF UK) INDIA USED THE MEETING TO ARGUE SKILLFULLY AND AT LENGTH FOR IMPROVED ACCESS FOR INDIAN PRODUCTS IN EC MARKET. EC'S CASPARI WAS SYMPATHETIC BUT FREQUENTLY REMINDED INDIANS THAT EC ECONOMIES ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERABLE STRESS WHICH LIMITS EC ABILITY TO FULLY ACCOMMODATE LDC NEEDS.

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3. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE MEETING'S CONCLUSION

SAID THE JOINT COMMISSION DISCUSSED MEASURES FOR INCREASING ACCESS AND ENCOURAGING DEMAND FOR JUTE AND COIR PRODUCTS IN COMMUNITY MARKET. THE COMMUNITY WILL CONSIDER QUOTA INCREASES FOR CERTAIN JUTE GOODS, SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR "JUTE SPECIALITIES", AND ELIMINATION OF DUTIES ON JUTE AND COIR PRODUCTS BY MID-1977. Y.T. SHAH TOLD THE PRESS THAT BILATERAL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975 TO DISCUSS IMPROVED MARKETING AND ENTRY FOR LEATHER, LEATHER GOODS, AND TEA.

4. INDIA REGISTERED STRONG OBJECTION AT THE MEETING TO THE EC HANDLOOM QUOTA FOR 1975 WHICH IS SET AT THE SAME OVERALL LEVEL AS THE 1974 QUOTA. ROBERTS SAID 1975 QUOTA WAS NOT GENEROUS BUT THAT INTERNAL REALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY QUOTAS WOULD RESULT IN HIGHER GLOBAL QUOTA UTILIZATION. THE INDIANS ALSO GAVE THEIR VIEWS ON COTTON TEXTILES, BUT EC DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION IN DETAIL INASMUCH AS BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW AGREEMENT UNDER THE MULTI-FIBER ARRANGEMENT ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY.

5. AN INDIAN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIAL WHO SAT IN ON TALKS (ECONOMIC DIVISION DIRECTOR NAZARETH) SAID HE THOUGHT INDIA USED THE MEETING TO GOOD ADVANTAGE TO ACQUAINT EC OFFICIALS WITH INDIAN INDUSTRIAL CAPABILITIES. INDIA IS HOPEFUL OF INTERESTING FIRMS FROM EC COUNTRIES IN JOINT PROJECTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES, E.G., THE MIDDLE EAST. INDIA ARGUES THAT IT COULD SUPPLY TECHNICAL PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT OF MEDIUM SOPHISTICATION, WITH EUROPEAN PARTNERS PROVIDING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.

6. INDIA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AT THE MEETING FOR \$50 MILLION BILATERAL GRANT TO INDIA IN UN/MSA FRAMEWORK, AND FOR 300,000 TON FOODGRAIN GRANT. INDIA ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH CONTINUATION FOR 1975 OF DUTY-FREE ENTRY INTO UK AND DENMARK OF JUTE AND COIR PRODUCTS, AN EC DECISION MADE OUTSIDE THE JOINT COMMISSION CONTEXT, BUT ANNOUNCED HERE TO IMPROVE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING ATMOSPHERICS.

7. MEETING HAD FEW, IF ANY, CONCRETE RESULTS BUT PARTICIPANTS ON BOTH SIDES CHARACTERIZED IT AS USEFUL REVIEW OF ISSUES OF BILATERAL INTEREST. NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN BRUSSELS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEPTEMBER 1975. JOINT COMMUNIQUE TEXT FOLLOWS BY POUCH.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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